



TOWN OF ERIE NEWS FLASH

News & Announcements

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Message from the Mayor: Police Station & Municipal Court Building Ribbon Cutting

Below are the remarks that Mayor Tina Harris gave at the official ribbon cutting of the new Police Station & Municipal Court Building in Erie on Friday, September 18, 2015.



On behalf of the citizens of Erie, I extend our gratitude to the members of the Erie Police Department and Municipal Court for your service, dedication and last but not least – your patience. This building has been a long time coming. Chief Vasquez – on behalf of the entire Board of Trustees – today we officially dedicate this new building to you – we know you will take good care of it.



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To the citizens of Erie, I say “thank you” for voting not only with your wallets – but with compassion. It is thanks to your support that we have built this community facility, one we can all be proud of. When you walk through these doors you enter a place that is not only respectful of the victims of crime - but respectful of witnesses, suspects, families and of course the law enforcement and public safety personnel who work here.

It is no accident that Erie continues to be ranked as one of the safest communities in Colorado. We make Top 10 List after Top 10 List. Chief Vasquez, the community policing program you have put into effect and the efforts of your officers are big reasons why we are recognized as a safe place to live. But our residents understand and accept the role they must play if we truly want to Keep Erie Safe. They clearly demonstrated their support for the Erie PD at the ballot box last April.

As a History teacher – I think a quick look in the rearview mirror is appropriate in order to fully appreciate the efforts of those who are largely responsible for getting to where we are today.

In 2014, all of us on the Keep Erie Safe committee asked voters to say “yes” to a new police station and in return we promised to provide good value for the money.

We knew we had a challenge in front of us because voters had rejected the idea less than two years earlier. As a citizen committee, we developed four key messages early on and kept driving those messages home. They were:

1. We have an immediate need
2. This building is the product of study and design
3. Financing allows future residents to pay their fair share
4. It's not going to cost you a lot and the cost will go down over time

I could not have asked for a more energetic citizen committee. It was an honor to serve with you.

As we all now know – the public’s confidence in the Town to deliver on our promise was well placed. I say this for many reasons. First, the average homeowner’s proportional share for this building will now be \$20.97 per year - and not the \$36.00 per year we estimated during the campaign. And this cost will go down over time!

I commend our Town Administrator A.J. Krieger and our Finance Director Steve Felten for the role they played in lowering the effective rate of the bonds for this new building by 1.5%. Their hard work has paid off big time for the tax payers of Erie. Thank you.

I also want to recognize the efforts of our Director of Public Works Gary Behlen and Project Coordinator Raelynn Ferrera. At every turn, staff worked to keep design, engineering and construction costs as low as possible. Thank you for keeping this critical capital improvement project on budget and on time.

And lastly, I would like to thank this Board of Trustees for showing unwavering support for this project. It



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never ceases to amaze me what we can accomplish when we all work together for the good of our community.

Thank you.

View more photos from the ribbon cutting [here](#).